



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASE TO 3.1%

(HELENA) --- Montana's unemployment rate climbed 0.2 percent to 3.1 percent, the first time the rate has been above 3.0 percent since October of 2006. The national rate remained unchanged at 4.7 percent, while regional states were relatively stable. North Dakota's rate remained at 3.4 percent, Wyoming and South Dakota decreased to 2.9 percent, and Idaho increased slightly to 2.5 percent.

"Montana's unemployment rate has fluctuated over the past several months, but this does not mean that our economy is in trouble," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "The state still has one of the lowest rates in the nation and businesses are still struggling to find workers"

The consumer price index (CPI) increased by 0.3 percent between September and October. This was the second month in a row the index rose by 0.3 percent. Much of the increase was driven by higher energy and food prices. Seasonally adjusted employment in Montana increased by 300 jobs in September, while total U.S. non-farm employment increased by 166,000 over the same time period.

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**Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal*

patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.

The November 2007 Labor Situation Report will be released Friday December 21st, 2007

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******

Monthly labor force information for Montana counties are available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=205>

Monthly Montana industry employment information is available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=199>

Annual labor force data for Indian Reservations in Montana are available at:

www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121